

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the pending Office Action mailed on June 16, 2006. Because this Response is submitted with a certificate of mailing in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on or before the shortened period for reply set to expire on **August 16, 2006**, this Response is timely filed.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Prior to this response, claims 1 to 38 were pending and at issue, with claims 1 to 11 and 18 to 38 having been withdrawn pursuant to various Restriction Requirements. By this response, pending claims 12 to 17 have been indicated to be allowable and withdrawn claims 1 to 11 and 18 to 38 have been canceled without prejudice. Moreover, Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile these canceled claims in one or more related application, and argue the patentability of the same. Thus, claims 12 to 17 are pending and in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request a formal notification of their allowability as soon as possible.

While Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this application and Response, Applicants direct the Office to charge **Deposit Account No. 02-1818** for any fees deemed owed during the pendency of this application, excluding the issue fee.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY: 

Matthew T. Ridsdale

Reg. No. 56,832

Cust. No. 29200

Direct: (312) 807-4440

mridsdale@bellboyd.com

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